

Submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of Board member Payton
March 10, 2019

Substitute language for Proposal 166:

5 AAC 75.020. Sport fishing gear.

(e) Beginning January 1, 2020, a person sport fishing from a vessel when releasing a rockfish shall immediately release the fish and use a deep water release mechanism to return the fish to the depth it was hooked or to a depth of at least 100 feet. A vessel must have at least one functional deep water release mechanism on board and readily available for use when sport fishing activities are taking place. Upon request, a deep water release mechanism must be presented to a local representative of the department, peace officer of the state or federal law enforcement officer charged with enforcing fish and game laws. In this subsection, "deep water release mechanism" means a device designed to return a rockfish to near the bottom where it was hooked, or to a specified depth, and to assist the fish in recompression and to improve the fish's chance of survival.